

Second Personal Letter Addressed

to

All Officers of the Army

by

The Commander-in-Chief

This is my second personal 'letter' to you. You and I are members of a common team, both of us with one common object, and that is to see that we build a really superb army, irreproachable by any one in any manner in regard to our efficiency, our discipline, our loyalty, our moral integrity, our sincerity and our honesty and our interest in the professional training and welfare of our Jawans. You have, I hope, read that little red pamphlet I sent out some time ago in which I had 'talked' to you on paper on matters of vital importance which must receive yours and mine personal attention to see that together we build the army of the type I have stated above.

In the last two years I have met practically all the officers and men of our army. I have talked to you all quite frankly. I have taken you all into my confidence, and I have told you all what I have in mind in regard to general matters concerning the army keeping back, of course, such matters which are necessarily of a top security nature. I have told you all of my admiration for the officers generally and our grand men in particular in the manner you

I have all carried out your difficult work under very difficult conditions. I have the fullest faith in you all. I know you will all play in my team with a very high standard of loyalty and honesty. There have been certain cases of officers letting me down by misappropriating Government money, or Government property, of Government personnel, or Government supplies etc. In proved cases of guilt, severe disciplinary action has been and will always be taken. There have been a few disciplinary cases amongst certain officers, but these are all things that happen generally in any army although I, as your Commander-in-Chief, as the Captain of the big team of officers of our army, do NOT like any of these things to happen in our army at all. I want our army, and I am sure you want it too, to be the model army to the rest of the world in every way. It can be. NOTHING is impossible. If you and I are determined to achieve our object.

This is what I want to tell you. For some time, some people outside the army have been making rather wild statements and false allegations about our army by saying that discipline and morale have gone down. It is quite easy to make such statements. Some may have some definite reasons for making these allegations but it is yet another thing for them to give actual details of specific cases. I have asked for specific cases but not one has so far given me any concrete cases to back up these false charges.

However, if we, you and I, as officers, did our work conscientiously and honestly in every possible way, we should NOT worry about these wild talks at all. Our conscience is and will be clear.

So, I write this to remind you that in everything you do, and as long as you are in the army, I expect you to make quite certain that you do NOT yourself give the semblance of a chance to anyone to find fault with you in any way. Be as correct as possible in regard to the use of Government property, transport, supplies and personnel, and above all, in regard to the expenditure of Government money. Remember, I have told you many times, that we are the trusted custodians of the tax-payer's property-the army and everything in it belong to the taxpayer. We must respect this sacred trust.

Please make quite certain that you have official authority to spend even one single pie of the funds, Regimental or public or private, at your disposal and see that those under your command have no cause to lose their confidence in you, either in regard to your professional efficiency as a soldier or your moral integrity and honesty as an officer. Please let us preserve the good name of our army and leave a legacy for the future for which the future generation will thank you and me and the rest of us. Remember good officers make a good army. Do NOT please worry about promotions, releases etc. etc.-all these

are done very fairly to all concerned. Selection Board of all kinds recommend officers for promotions, appointments-including overseas appointments and overseas courses. I assure you, as far as I am concerned, there is NO question of any partiality or favouritism. Advancement is according to seniority compatible-this is MOST important - with efficiency.

If an officer has been passed over by those miles prior to him because of his inefficiency. At the same time do NOT please get too impetuous about your promotion or advancement. If young officers shoot up too rapidly to higher ranks, they will be sorry when they have done all their jobs at a very young age and find themselves having to leave the army at a very early age too. You cannot play "Musical Chairs" then to keep your jobs. You will have to go to make room for others below you.

Do NOT please go about discussing army matters with anyone outside the army. I have asked you all repeatedly NOT to do this and yet some officers do go and discuss army matters with those outside. This is being disloyal to me and to the army. Remember, I am NOT here permanently, neither are you, nor is any other officer in the army. We come and we go, but what remains is what we leave behind for the future, and we MUST leave behind an army that is the best in the world in the matters I have stated.

Please try and save every pie you can for our country. Every extra bit in way of personnel, equip-

ment, supplies, you may think you must have for your unit costs money and money is NOT easy to be had. Our country, with its newly won freedom, has innumerable problems to tackle, the main one of which is to raise the standard of living of the common man. This requires money.

I think we should give greater encouragement to Home products of items of domestic requirements, even though they may not be quite up to the high standards of imported goods. Unless the demand is great, the producers will have no inducement to produce more and improve standards. Let us make certain gastronomic sacrifices in respect of quality of tinned, canned and bottled indigenous products which may not have the same palatable and superior tastes of imported ones. Let us also buy all our requirements of woollen, silken and cotton wearing apparel, whether they be for suits, shirts, sarees or salwars, all of our own manufacture.

Finally, whatever we do, let us all make quite certain that every one of us and those under our command, no matter how large or how small that command may be, are professionally of the highest standard possible and the toughest chaps in the world. Once again, remember NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

God bless you all,

NEW DELHI,
10 Oct 51.

xxx Sd/-
General,
Commander-in-Chief
(KM Cariappa)